



## LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE MEDIA RELATIONS DIVISION

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### **Chef who confessed to cooking dead wife sentenced**

**LOS ANGELES** – The Lomita chef who told detectives he cooked his dead wife for four days was sentenced today to 15 years to life in prison, the District Attorney's office announced.

David Robert Viens was convicted last September of the second-degree murder of his 39-year-old wife Dawn Marie Viens. Dawn Viens, whose body remains missing, was last seen alive on Oct. 18, 2009.

Superior Court Judge Rand S. Rubin denied the 49-year-old defendant's motion for a new trial after Viens, acting as his own attorney, gave a long rambling speech.

Deputy District Attorney Deborah Brazil with the Major Crimes Division prosecuted the case.

In two separate interviews with Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department detectives that were played for jurors, Viens described how he bound and gagged his wife's mouth, feet and hands with duct tape so he could sleep. He found her lifeless four hours later.

He told detectives he placed her body in a 55-gallon drum filled with water and left her to cook for four days in his Lomita restaurant, Thyme Contemporary Café.

Viens was brought to court in a wheelchair each day after he jumped 80 feet off a Rancho Palos Verdes cliff on Feb. 23, 2011, after being confronted by Los Angeles County Sheriff's deputies.

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